

the small jets used in business fleets. Its proximity to the commercial, recreational and educational facilities of Southern Illinois make it convenient for the private or business traveler.

Location alone is not responsible for the success of Southern Illinois Airport. Airport Manager Gary Shafer and approximately 200 full and part-time employees have earned, through their hard work and commitment to excellence, not only the General Aviation Airport of the Year Award for 2005, but the continued respect and confidence of the flying public. This marks the fourth time that Southern Illinois Airport has been the recipient of this prestigious award, the second highest number among all the airports in the state of Illinois.

Southern Illinois Airport, like most general aviation airports, relies on federal funding assistance to maintain and improve their facilities. I was pleased to announce a Department of Transportation grant in April of this year for removal of obstructions to runway approaches. Recognizing the impact of this facility on the regional transportation network as well as the local economy, I have worked with my colleagues to secure funding for other projects in recent years. These projects have included; rehabilitating the primary runway and resurfacing another runway, replacing taxiway lighting, upgrading the snow removal fleet, purchase of an aircraft firefighting vehicle and acquiring land in the runway approach. These improvements help to ensure the safety of those people who fly in and out of Southern Illinois Airport on a daily basis.

Under the leadership of Airport Manager Gary Shafer, Southern Illinois Airport has been successful in recent years that have been difficult for the aviation industry in general and particularly for general aviation airports operating in rural areas. At my request, Mr. Shafer testified before the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. In that testimony, he addressed the role of general aviation airports and the need for continued federal support.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Airport Manager Gary Shafer, the Commissioners and staff of Southern Illinois Airport for this very well-deserved award.

USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3199) to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes:

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3199—the USA PATRIOT Reauthorization Act of 2005.

Mr. Chairman, we could be voting today on a bill that would receive almost unanimous support in this House. We could be voting on a bill that represents our best attempt at achieving the delicate balance between protecting our Nation from the threat of terrorism

and preserving our treasured liberties. The reason I know that we could do it is that every Member of this House cares about protecting our constituents from terrorists and every Member of this House believes that in the United States of America, there are certain liberties and freedoms that must be preserved.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today fails to achieve this balance. Despite the fact that we may adopt several amendments that will institute some minimal safeguards, H.R. 3199 still fails to protect our treasured liberties.

I voted against the PATRIOT Act the first time it was before the House, because I believed that certain provisions in the bill simply went too far and undermined our American values of freedom and justice. Many of the provisions that had me worried are up for reauthorization today. The final bill we will vote on today will contain most of them in the same exact form as four years ago, and that is unfortunate.

This is not to say that I oppose the entire PATRIOT Act. In fact, most of the PATRIOT Act is important and noncontroversial. We all want our law enforcement officers to have the tools they need to protect us.

However, I believe that when Congress greatly expands the government's powers, as it did in many of the provisions before the House, we also have an obligation to build in safeguards to protect the average American citizen. I do not believe this bill meets our obligation to the American people, and I cannot support it.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 3199.

A PROCLAMATION THANKING SPECIALIST KYLE EVERETT FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Specialist Kyle Everett has served the United States in Operation Iraqi Freedom as a member of the United States Army Reserves; and

Whereas, Specialist Kyle Everett is to be commended for the honor and bravery that he displayed while serving our Nation in this time of war; and

Whereas, Specialist Kyle Everett has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence, and outstanding service.

Therefore, I join with the family, friends and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in thanking Specialist Kyle Everett of the United States Army Reserves for his service to our country. Your service has made us proud.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT IN POLAND

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 328, a resolution

recognizing the 25th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland in 1980 that led to the establishment of the Solidarity Trade Union.

This legislation praises Polish workers in the shipyards of Gdansk and Szczecin for rising up against the repressive Soviet controlled communist regime in demand of greater political freedom. The actions of these courageous and peaceful individuals were directly responsible for the establishment of the Solidarity Trade Union, a profound social movement that ultimately ended communism in Poland without bloodshed.

This resolution rightly expresses the sense of Congress that our government should recognize and honor the struggle and sacrifice of the citizens of Poland, whose tireless efforts succeeded in restoring democracy to their country while simultaneously highlighting the correlation between organized labor and strong democratic institutions.

Now, more than ever, it is important that Congress pay tribute to, and support, those nations that willingly and actively allow the unimpeded formation of labor unions. For it is those countries that exhibit the most free and fair democratic policies. No such phenomenon is better exemplified than in the case of the Solidarity Trade Union. The formation of this important group ultimately led to the election of Poland's first post World War II non-communist Prime Minister, Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by again expressing my support for this legislation and encourage my colleagues' support. It should be a priority of this Congress to pay homage to members of the Solidarity Trade Union on the 25th anniversary of its inception and acknowledge the ensuing bond of friendship that has flourished between our two nations on account of workers' rights.

TO HONOR GARY MICHALAK FOR BEING PROMOTED TO THE POMFRET TOWN BOARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the appointment of Gary Michalak, resident of the Village of Fredonia, County of Chautauqua, to the position of Pomfret Town Board Member.

Mr. Michalak was appointed to this position by Town Supervisor Don Steger. Michalak has served in public office before, as Mayor of Dunkirk for 2 years in the early '80s. Since that time, he has been a guidance counselor at the Fredonia Central School District.

Mr. Michalak is an exemplary citizen, who is always ready to serve his community, and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor him here today.